Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2010 with funding from
Lyrasis Members and Sloan Foundation

http://www.archive.org/details/messagefromexecu1858hick

[Document Q.]

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,

February 27, 1858.

Read and ordered to be printed,

By order,

J. W. CLAYTON,

Chief Clerk.

MESSAGE

FROM

THE EXECUTIVE

IN REGARD TO THE MAINE LIQUOR LAW.

MESSAGE.

STATE OF MARYLAND,
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT;
Annapolis, February 26th, 1858.

To the House of Delegates of Maryland.

GENTLEMEN:—In compliance with the request contained in an order passed by your House on the 6th inst, I wrote at once to the Governor of Maine, asking the information desired in regard to the operation of the Prohibitory Liquor Law

I have to-day received a reply thereto, enclosing certain statistical information and tabular statements in relation to two of the counties of the State of Maine, whereby the inquiries made in your order are answered, so far as it is in the power of the Governor of Maine to give such answer. And taking these two counties, one the most populous and commercial county, and the other an agricultural county, as examples over the State.

I am further informed that the Prohibitory Law was enacted in 1851, amended in 1853; further amended in 1855, repealed in 1856, and the present License system substituted instead.

That the whole number of convicts supported in prison in the county of Cumberland, in the year 1853, was 319, at a cost of $1,673.50, and for the year 1857, was 1047, at a cost of $5,256.-33. In the county of Kennebec, the whole number supported in 1853, was 108, at a cost of $1,003.76; and in 1857, was 204, at a charge of $1,998.66.

Of the 319 convicts in Cumberland county in 1853, 154, were, committed for drunkenness; and of the 1047 committed in 1857: 732 were for drunkenness.

Of the 108 in Kennebec, in 1853, 25 were for drunkenness and of 204, in 1857, 84 were for the same cause.

In both counties there appears to be a proportionable increase in the number of convicts for offences of assaults and batteries, in the year 1857.

The amount of cost and charges for criminal prosecutions in

the State of Maine, for 1853, (while the law was in operation,) was $24,143.93, for 1857, including jailor's bills, $42,821.29.

The charges for the support of paupers are borne by the townships and cities; and there are no statistics in the Executive Department, showing the amount of such charges.

This information, and the tables and statistics enclosed herewith, answer, I believe, the inquiries made in the order of the 6th February, passed by your Honorable body.

THOS. H. HICKS.

The number of commitments to jail, in Cumberland county, during the year 1853, was, in all, 319 (three hundred and nineteen,) and for the following crimes and offenses:

Drunkenness,	154
Larceny,	40
Assault,	35
Riot,	6
Fraud and Forgery,	2
Liquor Selling,	50
Bastardy,	2
All other Crimes,	30
Total,	319

The cost of supporting 319 prisoners during the year 1853, was - - - - $1,678 50

The number of commitments to jail in Kennebec county during the year 1853, was, in all, 108, (one hundred and eight,) and for the following crimes and offenses:

Drunkenness,	25
Larceny,	14
Assault,	13
Fraud and Forgery,	4
Liquor Selling,	15
Burglary,	4
Adultery,	4
Robbery and Stealing,	17
All other Crimes,	22
Total,	108

Cost of supporting 108 prisoners during the year 1853, was - - - - $1,003 76

The number of commitments to jail in Cumberland county during the year 1857, was, in all, 1047, (ten hundred and forty-seven,) and for the following crimes and offenses :

Drunkenness,	732
Larceny,	130
Assault,	81
Safekeeping,	19
Riot,	9
Receiving Stolen Goods,	10
Fraud,	5
Liquor Selling,	4
Burglary,	4
Adultery,	10
Fornication,	6
Keeping Houses of Ill-fame,	4
Bastardy,	4
Other Crimes,	29
Total,	1,047
Cost of supporting 1047 prisoners during the above year, was,	$5,256 33

The number of Commitments to jail in Kennebec county during the year 1857, was, in all, two hundred and four, and for the following crimes and offenses:

Drunkenness,	84
Larceny,	34
Assault,	34
Liquor Selling,	7
Forgery,	2
Arson,	2
Adultery,	4
Lewd Conduct,	5
Burglary,	2
Contempt of Court,	3
Bastardy,	1
Mischief,	5
Maiming Beast,	1
Houses of Ill-fame,	3
Riot,	5
Vagabond,	3
Other Crimes,	8
Total,	204

The cost of supporting 204 prisoners during the year 1857, was - - - $1,998 66

STATE OF MAINE,

OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE,

Augusta, February 22, 1858.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true abstract of the returns made at this office by the Treasurers of the counties of Cumberland and Kennebec, of the whole number of convicts supported in prison, the crimes and offences for which they were imprisoned, and the expense of supporting the same.

LEWIS D. MOORE,
Deputy Secretary of State.

For support of convicts in jail in Cumberland county during the year 1853:

319 prisoners at $2.25 per week, - - $1,678,50

For their support in 1857:

1,047 prisoners at $2.25 per week, - - $5,256.33

Of which in 1853, 154 was for drunkenness,

Of which, in 1857, 732 was for drunkenness.

For support of convicts in jail, in Kennebec county during the year 1853.

108 prisoners, at $2.25 per week, - - $1,003.76

For their support in 1857:

204 prisoners at $2.25 per week, - - $1,998.66

Of which, in 1853, 25 was for drunkenness.

Of which, in 1857, 84 was for drunkenness.

The whole amount of costs for criminal prosecutions, and jailor's bills, for the support of prisoners in the State, for, and during the year 1853, was - - - - $24,143 93

The whole amount of costs for criminal prosecutions, and jailor's bills, for the support of prisoners in the State, for, and during the year 1857, was $42,821 29

STATE OF MAINE.

OFFICE SECRETARY OF STATE,

Augusta, February 22, 1858,

I hereby certify that the foregoing is the whole amount of costs in criminal prosecutions and expenses of supporting prisoners in jail, in this State, for the years 1853 and 1857, as appears upon the books in this office, and for which warrants had been drawn upon the Treasurer of this State.

LEWIS D. MOORE,
Dep. Secretary of State.